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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

October 22, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 4705 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: PREL, KPAL
Captions: None
Subject: FORMER PALESTINIAN PM ABBAS VISITS THE UAE
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 04705

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: AMB DCM P/M ECON RSO

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY
CLEARED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT

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RR RUEHC RUEHXK RUEHDE
DE RUEHAD #4705 2951402
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 221402Z OCT 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2166
INFO RUEHXK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 3490

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 004705

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP AND NEA/NGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/21/13
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: Former Palestinian PM Abbas visits the UAE

(U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba, Reasons
1.5 (b) and (d).

1.(C) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (HbZ) told the Ambassador October 19 that former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) had visited with him the previous day and they had had a long discussion. Abbas reported that most of the changes he had made to the Palestinian security hierarchy and procedures within the Palestinian Authority had been reversed by President Arafat. In Abbas' view, new Prime Minister Ahmed Qorei is completely under Arafat's control and cannot and will not -- work independently.

2.(C) Abbas and HbZ discussed two possible ways to deal

with Arafat. One would be to isolate him in his compound, remove his telephones and deny any meetings. Eventually, he would give up and leave. The other way would be to grant him the freedom to move about and travel in and out of the West Bank/Gaza, but with conditions. Inevitably, one of the conditions would not be met and then Sharon could prevent him from returning. HbZ told the Ambassador that it is very unlikely that Sharon will actually eliminate Arafat because he is too valuable for him where he is. Arafat and Sharon help each other out and enable one another, HbZ said.

3.(C) HbZ confirmed to the Ambassador that the UAE would be granting UAE citizenship to Abbas' children, but not Abu Mazen himself. Abbas told HbZ that he had no intention of leaving the West Bank/Gaza.

WAHBA